

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

United States of America

v.

Case No. 10-mj-15-01-DL

Steven Sterling,  
A/K/A Dwayne C. Gousby

**ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL**

In accordance with Section 3142(f) of the Bail Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 3141 et seq., a hearing was conducted on March 22, 2010, for the purpose of determining whether to detain defendant, Steven Sterling, a/k/a Dwayne C. Gousby, who has been charged in a complaint with four gun charges, including felon in possession.

Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(b), a court, in making a determination regarding detention, must evaluate the risk of the defendant's flight, the risk to the safety of any other person, and the risk to the safety of the community. In circumstances when detention is not mandated by the court, the court is nonetheless empowered to impose conditions on release. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c).

Pursuant to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) a court, in assessing the risks noted in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(b), shall

consider the following: (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense charged; (2) the weight of the evidence as to guilt; (3) the history and characteristics of the accused, including family ties, past history, financial resources and employment; and (4) the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the community that would be posed by a release.

During the course of a hearing conducted pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142, the government typically retains the burden of persuading the court that “‘no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure’ the defendant’s presence at trial.” United States v. Perez-Franco, 839 F.2d 867, 870 (1st Cir. 1988)(quoting United States v. Palmer-Contreras, 835 F.2d 15, 17-18 (1st Cir. 1987)); United States v. Patriarca, 948 F.2d 789, 793 (1st Cir. 1991). For its part, the government is required to offer a preponderance of the evidence to prove risk of flight. See Patriarca, 948 F.2d at 792-93. Facts necessary to find that no combination will reasonably assure the safety of any person and the community require satisfaction of the “clear and convincing” standard. 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2).

In the case at hand, I have found probable cause to believe that the offenses charged have been committed and that the

defendant has committed them.

Here, I find that the government has met its burden with regard to danger to the community. Specifically, these are gun charges with evidence from an informant, witnesses, recordings and a co-conspirator that will very probably lead to conviction. He has two prior gun convictions, violation of a restraining order, and drug convictions. He described his drug business in a recorded conversation with the CI.

I am satisfied from the representations and documents offered during the hearing that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of the community.


Upon full consideration of the arguments offered by the government and defense, I am satisfied that the defendant poses a danger to the community.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that the defendant be detained pending trial.

The defendant is committed to the custody of the Attorney General or his designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant shall be afforded a reasonable

opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility shall deliver the defendant to the United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with a court proceeding.

**SO ORDERED.**

  
James R. Muirhead  
United States Magistrate Judge

Date: March 22, 2010

cc: Peter E. Papps, Esq.  
Jeffrey S. Levin, Esq.  
U.S. Marshal  
U.S. Probation